shaking after ASI carried out some repairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any initiatives to undo the damage done to the minarets by ill-planned repairs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No ill-planned repairs have been done. After the earthquake of 2001 the conservation work for the damaged minarets of the monuments protected by Archaeological Survey of India has been attended to with utmost care.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Qutab iron Pillar

2634. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a penal of scientists have sought permission to allow research on sixteenth century Qutab Iron Pillar, Delhi to solve the mystery as why its malleble metal is impervious to rust;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether permission has been granted;

(c) whether any such study/research was also carried out previously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir, the Archaeological Survey of India has not received any request recently for such a research.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The previous studies carried out for the chemical analysis of the iron pillar indicate that it is made of pure wrought iron free from Manganese, containing high Phosphorous and very low Sulphar content. In the year 1998, a Department of Science and Technology Project for non-destructive evaluation of Iron Pillar, proposed by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, was approved. This study has revealed that the passive rust scales of the pillar formed on the surface indicate the protective nature of the oxide structure developed and its stability against corrosion.

Remains of temples in Tamil Nadu

2635. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India had discovered remains of two temples near the shore temple of Mamallapuram in February-March, 2005 excavations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the ASI in this regard; and

(d) whether the ASI is carrying out any new excavations in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has discovered remains of two structural temples south of the shore temple of Mamallapuram.

(b) The first temple is located adjacent to the south of the shore temple, while the second temple is at a distance of nearly 100 m from the first temple. The remains of the first temple consist of sanctum and an entrance porch. The remains of the second temple reveal the foundation of a structural temple with some scattered architectural members.

(c) The ASI has taken steps to preserve all the excavated structures.

(d) No, Sir.

Cutting of trees around historical monuments

†2636. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Archaeological Survey of India

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.